

CLAIMS

1. A method for generating code for processing a database comprising the steps:

- (a) defining the database in an entity-relationship data model;
- (b) creating a source file containing instructions for processing the database, the instructions including one or more high-level directives; and
- (c) pre-processing the source file, by replacing the directives with code, using information pulled from the data model, to generate a destination file containing the code for processing the database.

2. A method according to Claim 1 wherein at least some of the directives define macro substitutions to be performed on the source file.

3. A method according to Claim 1 wherein at least some of the directives specify another file containing code to be included in the destination file.

4. A method according to Claim 1 wherein at least some of the directives cause run-time macros to be inserted into the destination file, and wherein the method includes the step of processing the destination file at run time to replace the run-time macros.

5. A method according to Claim 4 wherein the run-time macros define a storage scheme for the database.

6. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the model includes annotations, and wherein the method includes using the annotations to control pre-processing of the source file.

7. A method for processing a database comprising the steps:

- (a) defining the database in an entity-relationship data model;
(b) creating a source file containing instructions for processing the database, the instructions including one or more high-level directives;
(c) pre-processing the source file, by replacing the directives with code, using information pulled from the data model, to generate a destination file containing the code for processing the database; and
(d) running the code in the destination file, to process the database.

8. A method according to Claim 7 wherein at least some of the directives define macro substitutions to be performed on the source file.

9. A method according to Claim 7 wherein at least some of the directives specify another file containing code to be included in the destination file.

10. A method according to Claim 7 wherein at least some of the directives cause run-time macros to be inserted into the destination file, and wherein the method includes the step of processing the destination file at run time to replace the run-time macros.

11. A method according to Claim 10 wherein the run-time macros define a storage scheme for the database.

12. A method according to Claim 7 wherein the model includes annotations, and wherein the method includes using the annotations to control pre-processing of the source file.

sub 13. A computer system comprising:

- (a) means for defining a database in an entity-relationship data model;
- (b) means for creating a source file containing instructions for processing the database, the instructions including one or more high-level directives;
- (c) means for pre-processing the source file, by replacing the directives with code, using information pulled from the data model, to generate a destination file containing the code for processing the database; and
- (d) means for running the code in the destination file, to process the database.

14. A computer system according to Claim 13, wherein at least some of the directives cause run-time macros to be inserted into the destination file, and wherein the system includes means for processing the destination file at run time to replace the run-time macros.

15. A computer system according to Claim 13 wherein the model includes annotations, and wherein the system includes means for using the annotations to control pre-processing of the source file.

sub 16. An information carrier, holding a program for performing a method for generating code for processing a database defined in an entity-relationship data model, the method comprising the steps:

- (a) creating a source file containing instructions for processing the database, the instructions including one or more high-level directives; and
- (b) pre-processing the source file, by replacing the directives with code, using information pulled from the data model, to generate a destination file containing the code for processing the database.